

Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs Off To A Productive Start

On June 27, 2005, the Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs held its first meeting in the Lansing Executive Office of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. The Council, created by a May 2005, Executive Order from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, was created to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.

The first meeting was attended by all but three Council members, the Director and staff of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and Susan Corbin, Director of Appointments for the Governor's Office. During the first meeting, Francisco Borja was voted into the role of Council Secretary, Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood was appointed an honorary member of the Council and subcommittees were created within the Council. The Council also created the following mission statement:

The mission of the Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs (ACAPAA) is to advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the building of "One Michigan."

The subcommittees created included Business, Civil Rights, Community/Demographic, Education, Health, Immigration and Overall/Miscellaneous. Group leaders were also designated and members were asked to volunteer for subcommittees. Although the Council voted to meet bi-monthly, it was agreed that members of the subcommittees would meet and work on issues or projects in the off months and report to the full Council during Council meetings.

The next full meetings of the Council are scheduled for August 8, 2005, and October 4, 2005, both at the Detroit office of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

Members of the Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs include:

- 1) Francisco B. Borja, Jr. of Saginaw, president of Phil-Am Consulting & Tax Services, Inc.;
- 2) Felix H. Chow, Ed.D. of Flint, retired superintendent of Flint Public Schools;
- 3) Ying N. Gee of West Bloomfield, international representative for Michigan UAW International, Detroit;
- 4) Maggie Chen-Hernandez of Okemos, interim director of Michigan State University's Office of Racial Ethnic Student Affairs;
- 5) Roland Hwang of Northville, Assistant Attorney General;
- 6) Susan Im of Grand Rapids, attorney and coordinator of West Michigan Asian American Council;

- 7) Natividad (Nati) Jenks of Huntington Woods, Asian community activist;
- 8) Jayashree Kommareddi of Grand Blanc, past president of the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, program committee member of Mott Children's Health Center and board member of the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic;
- 9) Radha Krishnan of West Bloomfield, president-elect of the National Federation of Indian American Associations;
- 10) Narendra R. Kumar, M.D. of Freeland, president of Narendra R. Kumar, M.D., PC.;
- 11) Dominic J. Pangborn of Grosse Pointe Shores, president of Pangborn Design, Ltd.;
- 12) Ananda S. Prasad, M.D., Ph.D. of Orchard Lake, professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine;
- 13) Ganesh V. Reddy of Okemos, director of business development for HTC Global Services, Inc.;
- 14) Ernestina DeLos Santos-Mac, M.D. of Troy, semi-retired pediatrician with Pediatric Consultants of Troy;
- 15) Marilyn Y. Schlieff of Okemos, program director for the International Society for Technology in Education Professional Development Institute; Samir Singh of East Lansing, president and CEO of Michigan Non-Profit Organization;
- 16) Amy Ku'uileialoha Stillman of Ann Arbor, associate professor of American Culture, and director of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan;
- 17) Ramesh C. Verma of Novi, retired director of Design, Construction and Utilities Office, University of Michigan Hospitals, and member of the Commission on Services to the Aging;
- 18) Marie-Ange Weng, Ph.D., R.N. of Rochester Hills, retired member of the Association of Chinese Americans and the Organization of Chinese Americans;
- 19) Peter K. Wong of Grosse Point Farms, president and CEO of Roy Smith Company and president of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce;
- 20) Meredith Woo-Cumings of Ann Arbor, professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan;
- 21) Herbert Yamanishi of Lansing, president of the Mid-Michigan Asian Pacific American Association.
- 21) H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D. of Bloomfield Hills, licensed psychologist, president of Sunrise Ventures and immediate past chair of the Council of Asian Pacific Americans of Michigan was designated Chair of the Council.